

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 470

September 27, 1995, 2:26 p.m.
Page S-14389 Temp. Record

VA-HUD APPROPRIATIONS/Final Passage

SUBJECT: Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996 . . . H.R. 2099. Final passage, as amended.

ACTION: BILL PASSED, 55-45

SYNOPSIS: As amended and passed, H.R. 2099, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill for (fiscal year) FY 1996, will provide a net of \$80.98 billion in new budget authority, which is \$8.9 billion under the Administration's request, \$1.3 billion more than provided in the House-passed bill, and \$8.9 billion less than provided in FY 1995. Funding provisions include the following:

- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): \$37.339 billion (a decrease of 1 percent), including: \$17.650 billion for compensation and pensions; \$16.450 billion for medical care; \$1.345 billion for readjustment benefits; and \$225.8 million for construction projects (the President requested \$742.9 million; that request included a request of \$513.8 million for major construction projects, for which this bill will provide only \$35.8 million; this bill will place a moratorium on new major construction spending largely because many of the requested projects have not been authorized);

- Housing and Urban Development, \$20.329 billion (a decrease of 18 percent from FY 1995), including: \$4.600 billion for Community Development Block Grants (equal to last year's funding level); \$0 for the Home Ownership for People Everywhere (HOPE) Program; \$1.400 billion for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program; \$5.594 billion for annual contributions for assisted housing (a 50 percent decrease); \$4.351 billion for expiring section 8 subsidies (an increase of 72 percent); \$500 million for severely distressed public housing (the Administration did not request any funding); and \$760 million for homeless assistance grants (a decrease of 32 percent);

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), \$13.799 billion, including \$2.1 billion for the Space Station Program (see vote No. 463 for related debate);

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), \$5.662 billion, including: \$991.7 million for the Superfund Program (a decrease of 30 percent); \$1.5 billion for State Revolving Funds for drinking water and wastewater (this amount is \$500 million more than in the

(See other side)

YEAS (55)			NAYS (45)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (54 or 100%)	Democrats (1 or 2%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (45 or 98%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hutchison	Kerrey		Akaka		
Ashcroft	Inhofe			Baucus		
Bennett	Jeffords			Biden		
Bond	Kassebaum			Bingaman		
Brown	Kempthorne			Boxer		
Burns	Kyl			Bradley		
Campbell	Lott			Breaux		
Chafee	Lugar			Bryan		
Coats	Mack			Bumpers		
Cochran	McCain			Byrd		
Cohen	McConnell			Conrad		
Coverdell	Murkowski			Daschle		
Craig	Nickles			Dodd		
D'Amato	Packwood			Dorgan		
DeWine	Pressler			Exon		
Dole	Roth			Feingold		
Domenici	Santorum			Feinstein		
Faircloth	Shelby			Ford		
Frist	Simpson			Glenn		
Gorton	Smith			Graham		
Gramm	Snowe			Harkin		
Grams	Specter			Heflin		
Grassley	Stevens					
Gregg	Thomas					
Hatch	Thompson					
Hatfield	Thurmond					
Helms	Warner					

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

House-passed bill); no earmarks will be provided for community sewer grants (last year \$800 million was earmarked for such grants); \$100 million for Mexico border waste treatment; \$50 million for grants to the Texas colonias; and \$15 million for wastewater treatment in native Alaskan villages;

- Federal Emergency Management Agency, \$463.4 million (a decrease of 44 percent);
 - National Science Foundation, \$3.200 billion;
 - Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, \$0 (it is self-financing this year);
 - \$11.4 million for the Resolution Trust Corporation (which is slated for termination);
 - \$6 million for the Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps; this amount is for termination costs; see vote No. 464 for related debate); and
 - Selective Service System, \$23 million.
- Other provisions include the following:
- the EPA's veto authority over wetland determinations by the Corps of Engineers will be suspended;
 - the EPA will be prohibited from promulgating certain maximum contaminant standards for drinking water pending reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act (this prohibition will not apply to standards related to the non-carcinogenic effects of arsenic);
 - a moratorium will be placed on listing additional Superfund sites pending reauthorization of the Superfund bill;
 - the EPA will be prohibited from require a State to adopt a test-only or I/M240 enhanced vehicle inspection and maintenance program;
 - HUD will not enforce the Fair Housing Act against insurance redlining;
 - existing facilities discharging waste to the Kalamazoo, Michigan, Water Reclamation Plant will not have to pre-treat that waste if the Plant can be shown to achieve the same water quality as would result if they did pretreat that waste;
 - HUD will be given authority, effective fiscal year 1997: to terminate and reduce subsidies for multi-family housing; to conduct a limited demonstration of its mark-to-market initiative; and to maintain project-based assistance for expiring contracts under limited circumstances;
 - Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act section 8 subsidies will be replaced with one-time capital grants and loans;
 - the national occupancy standard of two people per bedroom will be retained;
 - fair housing responsibilities currently exercised by HUD will be transferred to the Department of Justice if adequate personnel and resources are also transferred; and
 - the EPA will be allowed to ban or restrict the use of fishing sinkers or lures containing lead, zinc, or brass if it finds that their risk to waterfowl cannot be otherwise addressed and if it gives Congress 160-days notice.

Those favoring final passage contended:

This bill will begin a comprehensive, systematic, and long-overdue reform of the Federal programs and activities which it encompasses. More than \$1 billion worth of obsolete and failed activities will be terminated, small, burdensome, categorical programs will be cleared away and delegated in block grants to States and local governments, and unsustainable policy mandates will be repealed. Welfare reform, in part, will be implemented in this bill by restructuring housing assistance programs. Unfortunately, a budgetary problem concerning outlay rates will delay the implementation of many of the housing reforms in this bill. We hope we can resolve this problem, because we are facing a huge budgetary shortfall in the coming years in assisted housing. That shortfall, if we do not act soon, will result in tens of thousands of needy families losing their homes. EPA will have its funding reduced mainly due to reductions in the Superfund account and to the elimination of sewer treatment earmarks. The first reduction will be made because of that program's persistent failure to make any real progress in cleaning up contaminated sites. Too much of its effort is spent in endless litigation, trying to make anyone remotely connected with a site pay for its remediation. The Superfund Program hopefully will be reauthorized and reformed later on this year. The second reduction in the EPA's budget will be to eliminate sewer treatment earmarks. Our belief is that funding for sewer treatment projects should be awarded competitively. We cannot afford porkbarrel spending in these tight budgetary times. Overall, this bill represents an abrupt departure from recent years. Over the past 10 years, this appropriation bill has grown at an annual average rate of 15 percent, primarily due to increases in low-income housing assistance. We can no longer afford to continue on that path. Reforms need to be enacted in the programs funded under this bill, and the budget needs to be brought into balance or the United States will soon be bankrupt. We support the fiscal conservatism of this bill as necessary and overdue. We urge our colleagues likewise to give it their support.

Those opposing final passage contended:

In general, we support the efforts that this bill will make to streamline operations at HUD and the EPA. However, the funding cuts are simply too extreme for us to vote in favor of the bill.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1995

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